

# NASA News

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## **NASA Wallops and UMES Giving Students a New View of the Shore**

NASA and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, Md., are teaming on a project for students to design a remote sensing system for coastal topography and vegetation features.

The project between the NASA Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va., and the university is called UMES-AIR: Undergraduate Multidisciplinary Earth Science - Airborne Imaging Research. The mission is to design, build, and fly a mini-spectrometer on a tethered blimp at altitudes up to 1500 ft.

The flights will be conducted over the UMES campus and marsh areas of the Chesapeake Bay and over Wallops Island. Agricultural areas also may be observed. The first test of the system is expected in late April or early May 2000.

UMES-AIR is designed to improve student motivation while involving them in an experiential learning and exploratory research activity pertaining to remote sensing.

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More than 20 students from mathematics, science, engineering and technology majors are actively involved in the project. Carlton Snow, a NASA electronics technician and a rising junior in the new collaborative Electrical Engineering program at UMES with the University of Maryland's Clark School of Engineering at College Park, Md., is providing leadership to the student teams.

NASA aerospace engineer Geoffrey Bland is providing expertise to UMES faculty and students on this project that is partially funded by a grant from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

Dr. Nagchaudhuri of the UMES Engineering and Aviation directs the Project Sciences department with strong support from Prof. Charles Elzinga of the Mathematics and Computer Sciences department.

Other UMES faculty, department chairs and staff who also are participating in the project include Dr. Gurbax Singh, Dr. Leon Copeland, Dr. Daniel Okumbor, Dr. Joseph Okoh, Dr. Ali Eydgahi, Dr. Roman Jesien, Ronney Spencer, Madhumi Mitra, Tracie Hedricks, Dr. Peter Ezekwenna, and Dr. Shawn White.

The Dean of the School of Business and Technology, Dr. Eddie Boyd, Jr. and other members of UMES administration have strongly supported the activity.

The project was initiated in 1999 and is in keeping with a memorandum of agreement between UMES and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center to promote such projects.

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